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SKELTON & BROTTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORTS

for the Year 1954

of the Medical Officer of Health

W. H. BUTCHER, V.R.D., M.A.,

D.M., D.P.H., BARRISTER - AT - LAW,


SURGEON COMMANDER R.N.V.R.

and of the Sanitary Inspector

J. J. PATTISON, M.R. SAN. I.,

M.S.I.A., CERT. S.I.B.





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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
SKELTON AND BROTTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my eighth Annual Report for the year 1954, the contents and arrangements of which are in accordance with Circular 28/54 of the Ministry of Health.

I would like at the outset to record my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their encouragement throughout the year.

To Mr. F. Wilkinson I am again obliged for his co-operation at all times. To Mr. J. J. Pattison whose report follows mine I owe an especial debt for his unstinted help in all matters concerning the health of the District.

On 1st June Miss M. Imeson was commissioned in the W.R.A.C. and her duties as Senior Clerk in the Area Health Office were undertaken by Mr. E. W. Peacock. I wish to thank both him and Mrs. G. H. Dean (née Waite) for their material contribution to the smooth conduct of affairs.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. BUTCHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

BROTTON,

30th April, 1955.

TABLE 1**Public Health Officers**

| Whole Time Officers | Guisborough Urban District | Skelton & Brotton Urban District | Loftus Urban District |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Medical Officer of Health who is also Asst. County Medical Officer No. 4 Area N.R.C.C. and School Medical Officer, N.R.C.C. | Dr. W. H. Butcher | | |
| Sanitary Inspectors | Mr. A. T. Pallister* | Mr. J. Pattison | Mr. E. Hollis* (resigned 31/12/54) |
| Additional Sanitary Inspectors | Mr. E. Ward | | |

*Also Surveyor of the district concerned

SECTION I**Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area****Population**

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the district in the mid-year 1954 is 12,800, as compared to an estimate of the population in the mid-year 1953 of 12,810.

General Statistics

I am indebted to the Financial Officer of the Council for the following figures:—

| | | | |
|--|------|------|---------|
| 1. Area of the District in acres | .... | .... | 15,309 |
| 2. No. of inhabited houses according to the rate books | | | 4,063 |
| 3. Rateable Value | .... | .... | £49,613 |
| 4. Sum represented by a penny rate | .... | .... | £198 |

Social Conditions

While officially styled Urban, apart from its industrial belt the District presents a rural enough scene; rolling farm lands rising to brown moors, the home of the black-faced sheep and the grouse while to the north-east there are the precipitous cliffs that give Cleveland its name, the haunts of sea birds and an occasional seal.

The great Skinningrove Iron and Steel Works, though situated just outside the District, employ close on a thousand of the residents. Ironstone mining whose activities for a hundred years have enlivened the Cleveland Hills, is now a declining industry; but not far away on the flats by the Tees the growing development of Imperial Chemical Industries and of the new Steel Works of Dorman Long & Co. Ltd. not only maintain, but increase the tradition of Cleveland for industry.

TABLE 2

Vital Statistics

| | | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|--------------|------|------|--------|-------|
| Live Births | .... | 123 | 101 | 224 |
| Legitimate | .... | 119 | 92 | 211 |
| Illegitimate | .... | 4 | 9 | 13 |
| Still Births | .... | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Legitimate | .... | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Illegitimate | .... | — | — | — |

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

| | | MALE | FEMALE |
|--------------|------|------|--------|
| Total | .... | 2 | 3 |
| Legitimate | .... | 2 | 2 |
| Illegitimate | .... | — | 1 |

The number of births registered being 224 gives a birth-rate of 18.2 per 1,000 of the population; corrected for comparability the birth-rate is 18.7 compared to 15.2 for England and Wales. Five infants under the age of one year died giving an infant mortality rate of 22.4 per thousand births compared to the rate for England and Wales of 25.5. All the infant deaths were under four weeks of age. 22.4 per thousand is the lowest infant mortality during the 73 years of which there are statistics. I hope that it is not a mere flash in the pan. The figure for the eight years 1947-1954 inclusive average 41 while those for England and Wales have been well below 30 during the same period.

TABLE 3 — Vital Statistics

| CAUSES OF DEATH | | MALE | FEMALE |
|---|------|-----------|-----------|
| Tuberculosis, Respiratory | .... | — | — |
| Tuberculosis, other | .... | — | 1 |
| Syphilitic Disease | .... | — | — |
| Diphtheria | .... | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | .... | — | — |
| Meningo-coccal infections | .... | — | — |
| Acute poliomyelitis | .... | — | — |
| Measles | .... | — | — |
| Other infective and parasitic Diseases | | — | — |
| Malignant neoplasm of stomach | .... | 6 | — |
| Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus | | 3 | — |
| Malignant neoplasm of breast | .... | — | 3 |
| Malignant neoplasm of uterus | .... | — | — |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | | 6 | 5 |
| Leukaemia | .... | 1 | — |
| Diabetes | .... | — | — |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | .... | 9 | 10 |
| Coronary disease, angina | .... | 11 | 11 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | .... | 2 | 2 |
| Other heart disease | .... | 9 | 13 |
| Other circulatory diseases | .... | 7 | 9 |
| Influenza | .... | 1 | — |
| Pneumonia | .... | 3 | 3 |
| Bronchitis | .... | 5 | 1 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | | — | — |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | .... | 2 | — |
| Gastro-enteritis and diarrhoea | .... | — | — |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | .... | 1 | 1 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | .... | 5 | — |
| Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion | .... | — | — |
| Congenital malformations | .... | — | — |
| Other defined or ill-defined diseases | | 5 | 7 |
| Motor Vehicle accidents | .... | — | — |
| All other accidents | .... | 6 | 1 |
| Suicide | .... | — | — |
| Homicide and operations of war | .... | — | — |
| ALL CAUSES | .... | 82 | 67 |

TABLE 4
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1954
(other than Tuberculosis)

| | All Ages | Under 1 year | 1 year | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5— | 10— | 15— | 25— | 35— | 45— | 65— |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Scarlet Fever | 9 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 6 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dysentery | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 25 | 3 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | 9 | 9 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Erysipelas | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Measles | 133 | 8 | 15 | 17 | 26 | 20 | 47 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | 61 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 5 | 32 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Poliomyelitis | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Typhoid | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

The deaths are classified under thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death 1948. 149 deaths of residents gave a death-rate of 11.7 per thousand of population; allowing for different age and sex distribution the comparable death-rate is 12.6 compared to 11.3 for England and Wales. Table 3 shows clearly what killed people in Skelton and Brotton in 1954.

SECTION II

Infectious Diseases

Table 4 shows the incidence of notifiable diseases except tuberculosis. In October 2 cases of typhoid were discovered in the District, part of a small outbreak that included 3 cases in the adjacent part of Carlin How lying in the Loftus Urban District. I give below a brief account of the outbreak.

The following cases were found in the chronological order of their discovery:—

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| L.B. | aged 15 months | |
| I.BL. | aged 4 years | } sisters |
| C.BL. | aged 3 years | |
| Lis.B. | aged 27 (Mother of L.B. and G.B.) | |
| G.B. | aged 2 years | |

L.B. was diagnosed on 7th October whilst under observation at the Middlesbrough General Hospital. I immediately visited the home and the homes of the intimate contacts. At the home of a family that were on the friendliest terms with the family of L.B., I found a child, I.BL., ill in bed. On my advice her doctor sent her into West Lane Hospital, where she was found to be suffering from typhoid fever. Her sister, C.BL., was found to have a positive faecal specimen although she was not ill when I saw her; I immediately sent her into West Lane Hospital. The first batch of faecal specimens of all the other contacts were negative but on a second sampling, Lis.B. was found positive, although the patient was not at the time ill. I sent her into West Lane Hospital together with her two remaining children, of whom one, G.B., subsequently developed positive faecal specimens. No further cases occurred.

This outbreak has some points of considerable interest:—

The cases were confined to two families who mixed daily, or almost daily; four cases were of children, that suggests that someone in close attendance on them was the infector.

In each case the infecting organism belonged to the same type Vi-phage Type D.1. Of one family, the mother, Lis.B. had been a German till her marriage in 1948. In the other family the father had been a Pole, the mother a German.

The type of organism Vi-phage Type D.1. accounts for some seven per cent of cases in Great Britain; in Western Germany it accounts for about the same percentage. Only three other instances of Vi-phage Type D.1. infection were recorded in Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire by the Central Enteric Laboratory between 1950 and the present date. Lis.B. had an illness of three weeks duration in 1943, after the bombing of Hamburg; her illness began with diarrhoea and she was "unconscious for ten days", that illness might well have been typhoid, and she might well have been a carrier since that illness. On the other hand her blood did not contain V.1. antibody which is against her being a carrier, but not proof positive because the bloods of ten per cent of carriers do not. Naturally as soon as she arrived in West Lane Hospital, she had to be cured so it will never be proved whether she was the carrier responsible for the outbreak.

I now concentrate on the parents of I.BL. and C.BL. Their faecal specimens taken on three occasions were all negative. Their bloods contained V.1. antibody (Salm. Typhi V.1. titre 1/16) but since they had typhoid inoculations as recently as 1945, that result must be disregarded. I now approached a lady whose parents had visited her from Germany between 1st August and 20th August; the parents had been very friendly with the two families involved. The faecal specimens from the lady herself were all negative.

It would have been interesting to have had specimens of faeces and of blood of the parents themselves but this approach, though pursued by me through the appropriate channels, proved impracticable.

In conclusion I would like to thank Dr. R. Blowers, Director of the Public Health Laboratory, Middlesbrough, for his constant advice, Dr. C. Grant Nicol of the Ministry of Health for his valuable information and co-operation, Dr. E. S. Anderson, Director of the Central Enteric Reference Laboratory, Dr. C. Elder, Physician Superintendent of West Lane Hospital, Middlesbrough, and Mr. G. D. Aspin, the Chief County Health Inspector, who was willing to place himself and his colleagues entirely at my disposal, had I required their co-operation. Last, and not least, I would like to thank the families concerned and all contacts for their courtesy and willing co-operation, under conditions of stress and worry.

During the late autumn and early winter there were outbreaks of upper respiratory infections, some of which had abdominal cramps. The cases, investigated by Dr. R. Blowers and myself where the findings were positive, were caused by the influenzal virus Type B.

Tuberculosis

Eleven new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year and one of non-respiratory tuberculosis.

TABLE 5
Tuberculosis

| AGE GROUPS Years | RESPIRATORY FORM | | NON-RESPIRATORY FORM | |
|---------------------|------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 0 to 4 | — | — | — | — |
| 5 to 9 | — | 1 | — | — |
| 10 to 14 | — | — | — | — |
| 15 to 19 | — | — | — | — |
| 20 to 24 | — | 1 | — | — |
| 25 to 34 | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| 35 to 44 | 3 | 1 | — | 1 |
| 45 to 54 | — | 1 | — | — |
| 65 and over | 1 | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 6 | 5 | — | 1 |

There was one death from this cause.

The co-operation with the Chest Physician, Dr. L. Rowley, is satisfactory; the contacts are supervised by the health visitors of the Local Health Authority; children among the contacts are subjected to the tuberculin diagnostic jelly test; when necessary contacts are X-rayed. Mr. Pattison, the Sanitary Inspector, reports on their housing accommodation. Finally, the Local Sanitary Authority is sympathetic towards rehousing such cases as I recommend.

Immunization

At the end of 1952 a prophylactic was introduced for use in infants with a view to giving protection at the same time against both diphtheria and whooping cough.

TABLE 6
Immunizations against Diphtheria or Whooping Cough and Diphtheria

| | Under 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5-9 | 10-14 | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|---------|----|----|---|---|-----|-------|-------|
| Completed Immunizations | 72 | 74 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 3 | 177 |
| Reinforcing Doses | — | — | — | — | — | 104 | 80 | 184 |

Immunization was available to children at the hands of the family doctor, or at the school clinics of the Education Authority at Carlin How, Lingdale and New Skelton, and at the infant welfare centres of the Local Health Authority at Carlin How, Lingdale, Brotton and Skelton. Reinforcing doses were given at the schools by myself to children who have been immunized earlier in life. All children under the age of one year whom I immunize myself receive the combined prophylactic against both diphtheria and whooping cough, unless a child has already had whooping cough.

Regarding protection against smallpox, 35 persons received primary vaccinations and 8 were revaccinated making a total of 43.

SECTION III

The General Provision of Health Services in the District

1. **Laboratory Facilities.**

This work is now done at the Public Health Laboratory, Middlesbrough, only the biological test for tuberculous milk being carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton.

2. **National Health Service Act, 1946.**

With certain exceptions the Guisborough Area Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee of the County Council exercises the functions of the Local Health Authority in supervising the day to day administration of the services provided under this Act. The Committee meets once a month in rotation at Guisborough, Skelton and Loftus. It is composed of members of the County Council, of the three District Councils of Guisborough, Skelton and Brotton, and Loftus, and of certain co-opted members. Among the services administered are the following:—

Domestic Help Service.

Prevention of illness: Care and After Care.

Ambulance Service.

Vaccination and Immunization.

Home Nursing.

Health Visiting.

Midwifery.

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

A comprehensive programme of clinical work with a preventative and educative outlook is carried out at the Centres and Clinics of the Local Health Authority throughout the District.

3. **Guisborough Area Voluntary Care Committee.**

I would like to record the useful work done by this Body for the welfare of persons suffering from tuberculosis and other illnesses. Whereas in connection with the welfare of the tuberculous the Committee has certain funds allocated to it, for the welfare of other sufferers it depends entirely on voluntary contributions. Enquiries and requests for assistance may be made to the Honorary Secretary, Area Health Office, Brotton, Saltburn (Telephone: Brotton 256).

4. **National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951—Section 47.**

During the year I managed to avoid advising the Local Sanitary Authorities to have recourse to the procedure laid down in these Acts. Getting the aged sick into hospital is becoming, in my experience, an increasingly difficult and lengthy procedure. I am not referring to the chronic sick but to the aged persons who, owing to the onset of an acute condition superimposed on old age or chronic illness, or to the worsening of a chronic

disease so that it has become an acute, are no longer fit to remain at home, because the services of the Home Nurse and of the Domestic Help, even if relatives are available to help (many of these old persons are alone) cannot be regarded as proper care and attention. I do not suggest, from my limited experience, that these cases are numerous during the course of the year, but they do occur from month to month, and when they occur, for the patient's sake there should be hospital accommodation available without delay.

SECTION IV WATER SUPPLIES

1. Cleveland Water Company.

During the year 13 samples of the water supplied to consumers by the Cleveland Water Company were taken by me; all were found to be Class 1, i.e. waters of the highest degree of bacterial purity.

TABLE 7
Chemical Results in parts per million
Spring at Tidkinhow Farm, date 18/10/54

Appearance — Bright with very slight deposit. Microscopic examination revealed mineral and organic debris and protozoa.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------|-------|---------------------------------|------|---------------------|
| Colour | .... | Nil | Turbidity | .... | Less than 3 |
| pH | .... | 6.7 | Odour | .... | Nil |
| Electric Conductivity | .... | 305 | Free Carbon Dioxide | .... | 37 |
| Chlorine present as Chloride | .... | 20 | Total Solids | .... | 205 |
| Hardness: Total | .... | 150 | Carbonate | 130 | Non-Carbonate 20 |
| Nitrate Nitrogen | .... | 0.8 | Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate | 130 | |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen | .... | 0.051 | Nitrite Nitrogen Approx. | .... | absent |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen | .... | 0.000 | Oxygen absorbed | .... | .20 |
| Metals: Iron | .... | 0.03 | Manganese | 0.90 | Other metals absent |

TABLE 8
Bacteriological Results

Spring at Tidkinhow Farm, date 18/10/54

| Number of Colonies developing on Agar | 1 day at | 2 days at | 3 days at |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| | 37°C | 37°C | 20°C |
| | 400 per ml. | 750 per ml. | 5000 per ml. |
| Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction | present in 1* ml. | absent from 0.1 ml. | Probable No. 500 per 100 ml. |
| Bact. Coli (Type 1) | 10 ml. | 1 ml. | 25 per 100 ml. |
| Cl. Welchii Reaction | 100 ml. | 10 ml. | |

* Intermediate Type 1 and Aerogenes Type 1

The above water is of unsatisfactory bacterial purity, because it gives evidence of sewage or manurial pollution. That it has been drunk for years without it giving rise, as far as is known, to cases of typhoid merely shows that no faeces containing typhoid organisms has seeped into the spring. Protozoa showing definite surface pollution

although not visible to the naked eye, are in my opinion more objectionable and more suspicious than are larger forms of animal life which are visible to the unaided vision. In addition the water is corrosive to metals and the large amount of manganese will cause staining.

In January and on subsequent occasions specimens of a fresh water crustacean were found in the supply at Skelton Green. This crustacean, though harmless in itself, multiplies in water rich in vegetable matter such as our moorland supplies and can be very troublesome to eradicate. The matter received the systematic and thorough attention of the Cleveland Water Company over several months.

SECTION V.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk.

The following samples of milk were taken by me and submitted to the necessary chemical and bacteriological examinations. The results are shown below:—

TABLE 9

| Type of Milk | No. of Samples | Passed statutory tests for cleanliness | Failed the same | Biological test shows infection with tuberculosis | Brucellus Abortus found |
|-------------------|----------------|--|-----------------|---|-------------------------|
| Undesignated | 3 | 1 | 2 | — | 1 |
| Tuberculin Tested | 21 | 18 | 3 | 1* | — |
| Pasteurised | 5 | 5 | — | — | — |
| Accredited | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1* | 1* |

* Samples taken by the County Council's Officer.

The Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act 1950.

Specification of Areas

On 1st April an Order made under Section 23 of the above Act came into operation in the District whereby the use of special designations in relation to milk sold by retail became obligatory, so that all milk sold by retail is now "pasteurised", "sterilised" or "tuberculin tested"; the sale of "accredited" milk from a single herd was permitted till 30th September. I welcomed this Order with open arms, I liked neither undesignated nor accredited milks and I viewed with the utmost disfavour the illegal action of getting accommodation milk from passing milk lorries, of which I found one example prior to 1st April; the roundsman admitted it to me by a slip of his tongue; unfortunately I was alone without a witness.

Section 20 — Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

On the 12th August, a sample of milk was obtained by an officer of the County Council from an "accredited" herd; on the 29th September, the guinea pig into which some of the milk had been injected was found to have developed tuberculosis. I was immediately informed and at once issued on the producer a notice prohibiting the sale of the milk unless adequately treated by heat. The herd was examined and afterwards kept under observation by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; group samples of the milk were taken, examined biologically and finally certified as non-tuberculous. In consequence I withdrew the notice on the 29th November.

On the 12th August a sample of milk was obtained by an Officer of the County Council from a producer-retailer of "tuberculin tested" milk; on the 29th September the biological test showed the presence of tuberculosis. I immediately issued on the producer a notice prohibiting the sale of the milk unless adequately treated by heat. A similar procedure as described above was followed by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the milk was finally certified as non-tuberculous; I withdrew the Notice on the 29th November. While public health bacteriologists may view tuberculin tested milk with a certain scepticism, there is no question, in my opinion, that it is a great advance; after all, no biological procedure is, or could be, on all occasions 100 per cent correct, because we are dealing with life and its constantly changing phenomena.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No outbreak of food poisoning was notified to me during the year.

Meat Inspection.

During the year the inspection of carcasses became again a duty of the Local Sanitary Authority. This obligation which is of the greatest importance, has thrown much additional work on the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. J. Pattison. With one Sanitary Inspector, the examination of every animal slaughtered is an onerous procedure though on the occasions of his absence on leave, I have given what assistance circumstances allow.

SKELTON AND BROTTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNCIL OFFICES,

SKELTON-IN-CLEVELAND.

10th May, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Skelton & Brotton Urban District Council.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my sixth Annual Report to the Council, for the year 1954.

I express my thanks to the members of the Council for their help and courtesy during the year and I am indebted to my colleagues, especially to Dr. Butcher, for the support and co-operation given to me at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. PATTISON,

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Generally

During 1954, as in the previous five years, as much of my time as possible was spent on housing repair work but the demands made upon my services by the public and Councillors through complaints, the resumption of slaughtering in the district with the associated meat inspection work and the attention which must be given to other duties made it impossible for me to deal systematically with the repair and improvement of dwelling-houses. Although some useful work has been done many houses need serious repair, large number of dry closets still remain to be converted to water closets and water supplies require great improvement. These are all major defects needing much time to remedy.

Water Supply

Again it must be pointed out that, apart from the risk of water-borne diseases during periods of drought, necessary improvements to many dwellinghouses are held up by the lack of adequate water supplies to the whole of the district. It is vital that the Scaling Reservoir Scheme be completed with the least possible delay.

In seven dwellinghouses water taps and sinks were provided in sculleries in place of standpipes or other supplies. The position in regard to dwellinghouses can be summarised as follows:—

TABLE 10

| | | |
|---|------|-------------|
| 1. Number of houses supplied by standpipes | .... | 414 |
| 2. Number of houses supplied by wells and springs | .... | 74 |
| 3. Number of houses having direct supply | .... | 3575 |
| Total | .... | <u>4063</u> |

Sewerage and Drainage

With the exception of outlying houses and farms the district is served by public sewers discharging to the sea. A sewage disposal works owned by the council receives the sewage from the village of Moorsholm.

Some lengths of sewer, damaged by mining subsidence, need relaying. Sewers laid and repaired during 1954 were:—

New sewers laid: 50 yards of 9 inch and 250 yards of 6 inch. In addition, 100 yards 15 inch and 50 yards 12 inch sewers were relaid.

Most houses in the area have drains connected to the public sewers. 118 additional connections were made to the sewers for closet conversions; 387 visits were made for the purpose of testing 166 drains totalling 549 yards of 4 inch pipe. In addition, 15 gullies, 30 chambers and 1 intercepting trap were provided.

Closet Accommodation

In regard to water-closets, the water carriage system is not general in the urban area, nearly half of the sanitary accommodation consisting of pan or pail closets; 141 of these closets were converted to water closets during the year, 76 grants being made by the Council.

Although the conversion of all dry closets in the area to water-closets is essential, no real progress can be made until there exists an adequate supply of water to all parts of the district.

Three water-closets were added to existing premises and, including those associated with new houses, the number and description of sanitary conveniences at the end of the year was:—

TABLE 11

| | | | | | |
|---------------|------|------|-------|------|-------|
| Water-closets | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2568 |
| Pan closets | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1603 |
| Middens | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4 |
| | | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | TOTAL | .... | 4175 |
| | | | | | <hr/> |

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The system of refuse collection and disposal remained the same as outlined in the 1949 report, except that salvage was not collected or sold during the year. Very few complaints were received regarding irregular collections.

The time lost during the year in sickness amounted to 1024 man/hours. For the financial year ended 31st March, 1955, the cost of the service totalled £4,666. Other items relating to the department were:—

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------------|
| Total mileage of vehicles | .... | .... | .... | 11,562 |
| Loads of refuse collected and tipped | .... | .... | .... | 3,099 |
| Approximate weight of refuse | .... | .... | .... | 6,198 tons |
| Trade refuse collected—loads | .... | .... | .... | 7 |
| bins | .... | .... | .... | 510 |
| Visits of inspection to tips, etc. | .... | .... | .... | 229 |

Factories

Seventy-three visits were made to factories and 3 defects were found and remedied, 1 in respect of unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation, 1 relating to insufficient sanitary accommodation and 1 case where a thermometer had not been provided.

TABLE 12
1. Inspections

| Premises | No. on register | No. of Inspections | No. of written notices | Occupiers prosecuted |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Factories in which Sections 1 to 6 are enforced | 23 | 30 | 1 | — |
| 2. Factories in which Section 7 is enforced | 31 | 36 | 1 | — |
| 3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced | 5 | 7 | 1 | — |
| TOTALS | 59 | 73 | 3 | — |

2. Cases where defects were found

| Offence | Found | Remedied | Referred to H.M. Inspector | Referred by H.M. Inspector |
|--|-------|----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Unsuitable or defective Sanitary Accommodation | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Other offences | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| TOTALS | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 |

Workplaces

Eighteen visits were paid to workplaces (being places other than factories where persons are employed except in domestic service). One defect was found and remedied.

Schools

Eight visits were made to schools. No defect was found.

Shops

Ninety-three visits to shops, dealing in all classes of goods, resulted in six defects being found which were remedied during the year. In addition, hot water supplies were installed in two food shops.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations

There is no Common Lodging House, House Let in Lodgings, or Offensive Trade in the district.

No licence was issued by the Council for Moveable Dwellings.

The Knacker's Yard at Charltons was again licensed. Six visits were made.

There are nine slaughter houses in the district but only six were licensed by the Council for regular slaughtering following the cessation of regional slaughtering by the Ministry of Food during the year.

Improvements to drainage, structural condition and lighting were required in five instances. Four hundred and six visits were made to these slaughterhouses for the supervision of improvements and meat inspection purposes.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, Cleansing, etc.

No house was found to be verminous during the year.

Rodent Control

The rodent operative, appointed jointly by the Loftus and the Skelton and Brotton Urban District Councils, continued his duties in the two areas. By the end of the year the Council's sewers had been treated twice, while three business premises and thirty-two houses were treated at the request of the owners. Five allotments and three other premises were also treated and the Council's refuse tips received eleven treatments. The bodies of 62 rats and 14 mice were found but these represent, of course, only a small percentage of the actual number killed. The poisons used so far have been "Antu", zinc phosphide, arsenious oxide and red squill. The technique recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was employed.

Housing

Fifty-eight new houses were erected during the year, 46 by the Council.

Most of my time for the twelve months was again spent on housing repair work, no fewer than 965 houses being visited in connection with repairs needed under the Housing or Public Health Acts, necessitating a total of 2,032 visits. Lingdale, Boosbeck and Margrove Park were the areas in which I tried to concentrate, but demands upon my time were made by other duties and other parts of the district, making it impossible to work systematically. A great deal of work has been done but much more remains to be commenced.

TABLE 13

Housing Appendix—Statistics

New houses erected in 1954

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|----|
| (a) By Private Owners | .... | .... | .... | .... | 12 |
| (b) By the Council | .... | .... | .... | .... | 46 |

Table 13—Housing Appendix—Statistics—continued

| | | | |
|-----|--|------|-------|
| 1. | <i>Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year</i> | .... |  |
| (1) | (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | .... | 965 |
| | (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | .... | 2,032 |
| (2) | (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 | .... | 0 |
| | (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | .... | 0 |
| (3) | Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | .... | 0 |
| (4) | Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | .... | 32 |
| 2. | <i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices</i> | | |
| (1) | Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers | | 25 |
| 3. | <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</i> | | |
| A. | Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 | | |
| (1) | Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | .... | 7 |
| (2) | Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices | | |
| (a) | By Owners | .... | 7 |
| (b) | By local authority in default of owners | .... | 0 |
| B. | Proceedings under Public Health Acts | | |
| (1) | Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | .... | 30 |
| (2) | Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices | .... |  |
| (a) | By Owners | .... | 4 |
| (b) | By local authority in default of owners | .... | 26 |
| C. | Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 | | |
| (1) | Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | .... | 0 |
| (2) | Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | .... | 0 |
| D. | Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 | .... |  |
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made | .... | 0 |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | .... | 0 |

Table 13—Housing Appendix—Statistics—continued

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part 4, Overcrowding*

| | | | |
|---|------|------|-----|
| (1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year | .... | .... | 67 |
| (b) Number of families dwelling therein | .... | .... | 81 |
| (c) Number of persons dwelling therein | .... | .... | 522 |
| (2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year | .... | .... | 3 |
| (3) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | .... | .... | 7 |
| (b) Number of persons concerned in such cases | .... | .... | 45 |
| (4) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | .... | .... | Nil |
| (5) Of the total number of houses surveyed and recorded since overcrowding provisions were introduced in the Housing Acts, <i>i.e.</i> 3,144, sixty-seven were overcrowded at the end of the year, giving a percentage of 2.13. | | | |

TABLE 14

Nuisances

| | | | |
|---|------|---------------|------|
| Total number of inspections made for nuisances only | .... | .... | 1658 |
| Nuisances found | .... | .... | 417 |
| Nuisances in hand, end of previous year | .... | .... | 209 |
| Total needing abatement | .... | .... | 626 |
| Abated during the year | .... | .... | 446 |
| Outstanding at end of year | .... | .... | 180 |
| Notices served, informal | 417 | Complied with | 416 |
| Notices served, statutory | 30 | Complied with | 30 |
| Number of summonses or other legal proceedings | .... | .... | 0 |

FOOD

Milk

At the end of the year there were 8 dairies and 9 retailers on the register; 27 visits were made and one defect was found and remedied. Eighteen visits were also made to cowsheds, one dairy and cowshed being re-modelled during the year.

Meat and Other Foods.

There are 29 licensed slaughtermen in the district.

Regional slaughtering by the Ministry of Food ceased during the year and six of the nine private slaughterhouses in the district were licensed by the Council for regular slaughtering by local butchers. One of these slaughterhouses is also used by a Loftus butcher whilst another slaughterhouse is being used for the slaughter of animals for a wholesale trade outside the urban area in addition to the local trade.

A considerable amount of extra work has now to be done on meat inspection, resulting in other work having to be curtailed. Four hundred and six visits were made to slaughterhouses and 21 to other premises for meat and other foods inspection purposes and the following foods were condemned as being diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption:—

TABLE 15

| | | | lbs. | ozs. |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Beef | .... | .... | 1184 | 4 |
| Mutton | .... | .... | 124 | 0 |
| Pork | .... | .... | 249 | 0 |
| Canned Cooked Ham | .... | .... | 157 | 9 |
| Jellied Veal | .... | .... |  | 12 |
| Minced Beef Loaf | .... | .... |  | 12 |
| Sugar | .... | .... | 126 | 0 |
| TOTAL | | | 1842 | 5 |

All the food was surrendered voluntarily by the tradesmen concerned.

Animals slaughtered in the district and inspected were:—

| | | | |
|--------------|------|------|------|
| Beasts | .... | .... | 290 |
| Sheep | .... | .... | 613 |
| Pigs | .... | .... | 387 |
| Calves | .... | .... | 8 |
| TOTAL | | | 1298 |

Bakehouses

There are 5 bakehouses on the register, all of which are considered non-domestic in type; 10 visits were made and 2 nuisances were abated.

Fish and Chip Shops

Twenty visits were paid to fried fish and chip shops, of which there are 19 on the register. Two defects were found and remedied.

Ice Cream Shops

The 37 registered retailers of ice cream received 37 visits. There is no manufacturer in the district. Hot water apparatus was installed at 2 premises.

Public Houses

Seven inspections were made of the 21 public houses.

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

TABLE 16

Sanitary Inspector's Summary for the Year ended 31st December, 1954

1. Housing Repair Work done during the year

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|-----|--|------|-----|
| Roofs renewed or repaired | .... | 108 | Water closets provided | .... |  |
| Chimneys rebuilt or repaired | .... | 10 | Water closets repaired | .... | 23 |
| Walls rebuilt or repaired | .... | 27 | Bathrooms provided | .... | 4 |
| Walls pointed or rendered | .... | 9 | Closet pans renewed | .... | 199 |
| Wall dampness remedied | .... | 72 | Pan closets repaired | .... | 25 |
| Eaves gutters renewed | .... | 14 | Pan closets converted to water closets | | 141 |
| Rain-water pipes renewed | .... | 11 | Dust bins renewed | .... | 46 |
| Connections to sewers | .... | 118 | Dust bins provided | .... | 142 |
| Drains tested (number) | .... | 166 | Wash-houses repaired | .... | 5 |
| Drains tested (length, yards) | .... | 549 | Wash-houses provided | .... | 4 |
| Drains renewed | .... | 3 | Washboilers renewed or repaired | .... | 15 |
| Extra drains provided | .... | 25 | Coalhouses provided or repaired | .... | 13 |
| Choked drains cleared | .... | 16 | Ceilings renewed or repaired | .... | 71 |
| New gullies | .... | 15 | Wall plaster renewed or repaired | .... | 96 |
| New chambers | .... | 30 | Floors renewed or repaired | .... | 49 |
| New intercepting traps | .... | 1 | Windows renewed or repaired | .... | 62 |
| Waste pipes renewed or repaired | | 15 | Windows re-corded | .... | 30 |
| Yards paved | .... | 9 | Ranges and ovens renewed or repaired | | 23 |
| Yard paving renewed or repaired | | 8 | Fireplaces renewed or repaired | .... | 8 |
| Sinks renewed or provided | .... | 12 | Doors renewed or repaired | .... | 107 |
| Sculleries provided | .... | 22 | Pantries or food stores provided or repaired | | 29 |
| Water supply installed in houses | | 7 | Handrails provided or renewed | .... | 7 |
| Water pipes renewed or repaired | | 9 | Stairs renewed or repaired | .... | 6 |
| | | | Offensive accumulations removed | .... | 4 |

2. Visits, Notices, etc.

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total visits made during the year | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3313 |
| Complaints received and investigated |  |  | .... | .... | .... | 442 |
| (a) Nuisances | | | | | | |
| Houses inspected | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 821 |
| Number of inspections | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1658 |
| Nuisances found | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 417 |
| Nuisances in hand | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 209 |
| Total needing abatement | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 626 |
| Number abated | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 446 |
| Outstanding | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 180 |

TABLE 16—*continued*

Sanitary Inspector's Summary for the Year ended 31st December, 1954

2.—Visits, Notices, etc.—*continued*

(b) Housing—

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|-----|---------------------------|------|---|
| Houses Inspected | .... | 144 | Representations | .... | 0 |
| Number of inspections | | 374 | Closing Orders made | .... | 0 |
| Houses unfit | .... | 0 | Closing Orders determined | | 0 |
| Houses with defects | .... | 32 | Demolition Orders made | .... | 0 |
| Houses made fit informally | | 25 | Houses demolished | .... | 0 |
| Houses made fit formally | | 7 | | | |

(c) Premises visited, etc.—

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-----|----------------------------------|------|-----|
| Water supply | .... | 21 | Churches | .... | 2 |
| Drainage | .... | 387 | Closet Conversions | .... | 573 |
| Stables and Piggeries | .... | 17 | Overcrowding | .... | 14 |
| Fish and Chip Shops | | 20 | Verminous Premises | .... | 0 |
| Moveable Dwellings | .... | 8 | Infectious diseases | .... | 44 |
| Factories, mechanical | | 36 | Disinfections | .... | 9 |
| Factories, non-mechanical | | 30 | Slaughterhouses | .... | 406 |
| Building Sites | .... | 7 | Shops & Stalls (Food Inspection) | | 21 |
| Workplaces | .... | 18 | Butchers | .... | 53 |
| Bakehouses | .... | 10 | Fishmongers | .... | 6 |
| Cinemas, etc. | .... | 4 | Grocers | .... | 20 |
| Refuse Collection | .... | 131 | Fruiterers | .... | 19 |
| Refuse Disposal | .... | 229 | Cowsheds | .... | 18 |
| Rodent Control | .... | 140 | Dairies | .... | 27 |
| Schools | .... | 8 | Ice Cream Shops | .... | 37 |
| Shops | .... | 93 | Restaurants | .... | 6 |
| Public Houses | .... | 7 | Miscellaneous | .... | 61 |

(d) Notices Served—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----|------------------------------|------|----|
| Informal Housing Acts | | 25 | Statutory Housing Acts | .... | 7 |
| Informal Public Health Acts | | 417 | Statutory Public Health Acts | | 30 |

(e) Notices complied with—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----|------------------------------|------|----|
| Informal Housing Acts | | 25 | Statutory Housing Acts | .... | 7 |
| Informal Public Health Acts | | 416 | Statutory Public Health Acts | | 30 |

J. J. PATTISON,

M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Sanitary Inspector.

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